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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Every worker in Hungary was required to join a trade union corresponding to his or her skill. All factories, enterprises, etc., had a so-called "trade union secretary" who was "elected" by the workers but who was actually appointed by the Party. At factories or enterprises with over 1,000 employees, the trade union secretary received his salary from the union; in smaller factories or enterprises, the secretary was paid only for his regular factory job. The trade union secretaries had "trustees" who were also "elected" to their jobs. They were responsible for selling union membership stamps, received from the trade union secretary, to the workers each month to be placed in the workers' union membership books. The membership stamps were printed in various denominations and in different colors. Source paid 21 forints for stamps each month from her monthly salary of 1,400 forints. Once every four or five months, the trade union secretary collected all membership books and turned them over to the trade union headquarters to be checked. Any union member who had not paid his dues for three consecutive months, was expelled from the union and lost his job.
2. Although required to join a trade union, members had the following advantages:
 - a. In case of marriage, an allowance of 100 to 300 forints from the trade union was granted. When both the bride and bridegroom were union members, each received a separate allowance; the amount received was dependent on the length of membership.
 - b. In case of birth, the same amount as above was given under the same conditions to cover the cost of a layette. In the case of an illegitimate birth, the mother received the same allowance.
 - c. In case of death, an allowance of about 300 forints was given for funeral expenses to those who had been a member of the union for a long period of time.

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- d. In the event of illness and after long hospital treatment, trade union secretaries were able to give financial aid from a fund made up of money held back from the sale of membership stamps. This fund was also occasionally used to cover the expenses of union dances, parties, contests, and excursions.
3. Recreation for all trade union members was directly controlled by the Main Recreation Department of the National Council of Trade Unions; until 1952, it was handled by the Trade Union Social Insurance Center (formerly the National Insurance Center) through the Main Recreation Department of the National Council of Trade Unions. In general, large trade unions, state enterprises, and factories had their own recreation centers. However, a certain percentage of space in the centers was allocated to the National Council of Trade Unions which assigned it to members of trade unions which did not have their own recreation centers or to trade unions which did not have enough space in their own centers.
4. Every worker had the right to use the facilities of the recreation center which belonged to its union or enterprise although there was never enough space to accommodate all its members. Although propaganda continually claimed that all workers enjoyed the centers as vacation spots, only those persons with high positions in the unions or those who were on very good relations with the union leaders were able to be admitted to the centers.
5. A committee composed of the Party secretary, the trade union secretary, and the manager of the factory or enterprise determined who would be admitted to a center for a vacation. For example, a state enterprise or large office with 200 employees which had no recreation center of its own received a certain number of vacancies from the National Council of Trade Unions and the vacancies were given to those workers selected by the above committee. In allocating the vacancies, the National Council of Trade Unions did not care about the distribution of the vacancies; therefore, members of the committee usually took some for themselves and their wives or husbands; remaining vacancies were distributed on the basis of friendship or obligation. It was of secondary importance that a vacancy be given to a worker who needed the rest or to a worker who had been assigned to one of the centers many times before.
6. A worker chosen by the committee could stay at a center for two weeks and receive a reduction of 30 to 33 per cent in his round-trip railroad fare. For one room, a worker paid eight forints a day and this sum was deducted from his salary for three months beginning at the time he arrived back at his job. The eight forints also paid for three meals a day and an afternoon snack. When a man brought along his wife who was not a member of a union, he paid 24 forints a day for his wife. Other members of the family were not admitted because of the lack of space.
7. The quality and quantity of the meals depended on the skill of the manager. Breakfast usually consisted of coffee, tea, or milk, a small amount of butter, jam or honey, and unlimited amounts of bread. Lunch consisted of soup, meat, vegetables, and fruit or cake. Only bread and milk were served for the afternoon snack. For dinner, meat, vegetables, and fruit or cake were served. The portion of meat was always very small and the hours for each meal were strictly regulated.
8. Facilities at the centers were very poor. The facilities included one radio in the "culture room", chess sets, playing cards, table tennis, boats, skiing equipment, etc. Generally, one bathroom was shared by the occupants of ten rooms. In many cases, managers of the centers were ardent Communists and attempted to organize the vacationers into having

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a "collective vacation" by organizing dances, excursions, etc.

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9. [redacted] the Main Recreation Department and heard that the National Council of Trade Unions intended to transfer the management of the recreation centers to the State Hotel and Restaurant Company in order to raise the daily prices at the recreation centers from eight forints to 60 or 90 forints. [redacted] this transfer began. 50X1
10. Recreation centers for Stakhanovite workers were under the management of the National Council of Trade Unions. Their centers were located in the most scenic sections of the country. Room, board, and round-trip railroad fare were free. Persons on good relations with the Party were also able to use these centers.
11. The Main Recreation Department of the National Council of Trade Unions also had sanatoriums under their jurisdiction. However, there were only a few of these and to be admitted to one was very difficult and took a long time. After a person had been dismissed from a hospital, he waited for weeks before he received a vacancy. To obtain a room in one of these sanatoriums, an individual had to get a recommendation from a hospital physician. The rooms and food in these sanatoriums were good.

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